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M. de Seilhac's chapters descriptive of the organization of labor in France at the present time are particularly noteworthy. Here the great local and national unions and the "mixed" associations of laborers and employers for mutual aid are taken up one by one. These chapters are followed by accounts of the more influential trades-union federations and labor *bourses*. That portion of the volume devoted to labor congresses ought also to be mentioned. M. de Seilhac's work is a contribution of great value to the literature of the labor movement.

J. C.

American Municipal Progress: Chapters in Municipal Sociology. By CHARLES ZUEBLIN. (The Citizens' Library.) New York: The Macmillan Company, 1902. 12mo, pp. 380.

A POPULAR university-extension lecturer has an advantage not only in the habit of clear presentation of ideas, but also in first-hand knowledge of the cities in which he has lectured. Professor Zueblin has made the most of his exceptional opportunities for gathering information about American cities, supplementing his personal observations and the municipal statistics of the Department of Labor by a schedule of inquiries sent to officials of cities of more than 30,000 inhabitants. The result is a work of almost encyclopædic completeness within its somewhat restricted scope. Its object is to tell what American cities are actually doing toward the satisfaction of urban needs; mere forms of municipal organization are referred to only incidentally or not at all. Especially valuable are the chapters on public schools, public libraries, parks and boulevards, and public recreation—subjects which have been slighted by previous writers on American cities, but which afford an encouraging record of progress. There are also chapters on transportation, public works, sanitation, and public buildings, and a final chapter on "Public Control, Ownership and Operation." There are several appendices giving in detail statistical comparisons between leading cities, the cost of track elevation in Chicago, school accommodations in Philadelphia and Chicago, the organization of a "school city," the New York laws providing for illustrated lectures under the auspices of the school authorities, an abridged summary of state laws relating to compulsory education and child labor, a statement of the sanitary condition of the public schools of the District of Columbia, a list of questions asked in an investigation of

the Chicago schools, and the rules and regulations of the Milwaukee public natatoriums. Finally, there is a brief but very serviceable index.

Dealing less than is usual with organization and finances, and more than other writers with methods, Professor Zueblin discusses such matters as the architecture and grouping of public buildings, the open-shelf system of public libraries, the progress of manual training in the public schools, etc. There is a description of the class excursions of the Washington schools, which must now, unhappily, be written in the past tense, or else perhaps in the future.

The discussion of municipal franchises is very brief, and might well be expanded. The author's preference for the indeterminate franchise seems to be rather academic, and in practice inconsistent with his own statement that a franchise should not last longer than one generation; for the indeterminate franchises are practically perpetual. Professor Zueblin is in favor of municipal ownership and operation, which he believes promotes instead of hindering private initiative, by setting free the capital and energy otherwise involved in undertakings of a routine character.

In spite of some evidence to the contrary, Professor Zueblin reaches the encouraging conclusion that there has been a most notable development during the past decade, not only in the extension of municipal functions, but also in their efficient performance.

MAX WEST.

La population. By ALFRED DES CILLEULS. Paris: Victor Le-coffre, 1902. 12mo, pp. vii + 207.

IT has been said of ideas that they "come very slowly into being, and are also very slow to disappear." This is equally true of great masses of statistical data upon which certain social philosophers have come to depend. Writers cease to construct anew for themselves the statistical bases upon which their conclusions depend, and as their theorizing ramifies and develops the disposition to work at the foundation of their logic weakens. In this way some well-done statistical table which appears to lead incontrovertibly to a definite conclusion gets itself, as it were, fixed in the consciousness of economists and sociologists, and serves as a stop to first-hand examination of social conditions. Such a dead-locking and incumbering of social science with superannuated statistics has been particularly manifest in our efforts to come at some satisfactory understanding of population